

Application No.: 10/789,144
Attorney Docket No.: 25353A

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A liner/insulator, comprising:
a uniform base layer of fibrous material; and
a plurality of ribs of fibrous material extending from said base layer, said plurality of ribs being thermally bonded to said base layer, wherein said base layer of fibrous material and said plurality of ribs of fibrous material are selected from the a-group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers, ~~and~~ (c) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (d) a combination of (a), (b) and (c).
2. Canceled
3. (Currently Amended) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said fibrous material is selected from the a-group of materials consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, glass fibers, natural fibers and ~~any~~ mixtures thereof.
4. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said plurality of ribs are spaced apart at least about 0.25 inches.
5. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said plurality of ribs extend parallel to one another.
- 6.-7. Canceled
8. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said plurality of ribs are between about 0.5 to about 3.0 inches wide.
9. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent wet compression of between about 15 to about 18 percent.

Application No.: 10/789,144
Attorney Docket No.: 25353A

10. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent dry compression of between about 16 to about 21 percent.

11. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent dry wet recovery of between about 85 to about 87.5 percent.

12. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said liner/insulator is an automotive undercarpet.

13. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said plurality of ribs are made of scrap fibrous material.

14. Canceled

15. (Original) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said liner/insulator is a nonlaminated.

16.-37. Canceled

38. (Currently Amended) A liner/insulator, comprising:
a base layer of fibrous material having a plurality of slits therein; and
a plurality of ribs of fibrous material positioned within said slits, said plurality of ribs
being thermally bonded to said base layer, wherein said base layer of fibrous material and
said plurality of ribs of fibrous material are selected from the a-group consisting of (a) glass
staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic
bicomponent fibers and (c) a combination of (a) and (b).

39. (Currently Amended) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said fibrous material
is selected from the a-group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene,
polyethylene terephthalate, glass fibers, natural fibers and ~~any~~-mixtures thereof.

Application No.: 10/789,144
Attorney Docket No.: 25353A

40. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said plurality of ribs extend parallel to one another.
41. Canceled
42. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent wet compression of between about 15 to about 18 percent.
43. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent dry compression of between about 16 to about 21 percent.
44. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said liner/insulator has a percent dry wet recovery of between about 85 to about 87.5 percent.
45. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said plurality of ribs are made of scrap fibrous material.
46. (Previously Presented) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said liner/insulator is a nonlaminar.
47. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 1, wherein said fibrous material is formed of glass staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers.
48. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 40, wherein said plurality of ribs are spaced apart at least about 0.25 inches.
49. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said fibrous material is formed of glass staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers.
50. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said plurality of ribs is formed of cubed, fibrous ribs.

Application No.: 10/789,144
Attorney Docket No.: 25353A

51. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 38, wherein said base layer is a uniform base layer.
52. (New) A liner/insulator comprising:
a base layer of fibrous material; and
a plurality of cubed, fibrous ribs extending from and thermally bonded to said base layer.
53. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said base layer and said plurality of ribs are formed of materials selected from the group consisting of (a) thermoplastic polymer staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers, (b) glass staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers, (c) glass staple fibers and thermoplastic bicomponent fibers and (d) a combination of (a), (b) and (c).
54. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 53, wherein at least one of said plurality of cubed, fibrous ribs and said base layer is formed of glass staple fibers and glass bicomponent fibers.
55. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said fibrous material is selected from the group consisting of polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyethylene terephthalate, glass fibers, natural fibers and mixtures thereof
56. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said plurality of ribs extend parallel to one another.
57. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said liner/insulator further comprises one or more reinforcing facing layers.
58. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 57, wherein said facing layer is selected from the group consisting of a glass fiber scrim, a glass fiber mat and a glass fiber web.
59. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said plurality of ribs are made of scrap fibrous material.

Application No.: 10/789,144
Attorney Docket No.: 25353A

60. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said base layer is tuned to provide improved acoustical properties and said plurality of ribs provide strength to said liner/insulator.

61. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said plurality of ribs extend parallel to one another and are grouped in sets.

62. (New) The liner/insulator of claim 52, wherein said base layer is a uniform base layer.